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SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONS: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Draft framework for the 1993 Report on the World Social Situation

Report of the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. In paragraph 4 of resolution 1989/72, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General, in preparing the 1993 Report on the World Social Situation, to give high priority to an analysis of the main indicators of social ~~progress and~~ standards of living, and to make a comprehensive analysis of the main causes and circumstances that explain negative trends in those indicators. In the same paragraph, it was stated that chapters devoted to the study of specific social problems must be related to the global economic and social situations, taking into account both national and international conditions.

2. In paragraph 5 of resolution 1991/4, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in preparing the 1993 Report, to take into account the intrinsic relationship between economic growth and social development and to analyse in depth the economic problems of the developing countries and the impact of those problems on the world social situation. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to reorient the draft framework for the 1993 Report on the World Social Situation presented in the "interim report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation" (A/46/56-E/1991/6 and Corr.1) so that the draft framework was in consonance with the requests set forth in paragraph 4 of Council resolution 1989/72, and to submit it to the Council for consideration at its regular session of 1992. In resolution 46/95, the General Assembly endorsed the Council's request.

3. The reoriented draft framework, which has been prepared in accordance with the requests of the Council and the General Assembly, is presented below.

REORIENTED DRAFT FRAMEWORK FOR THE 1993 REPORT ON THE WORLD SOCIAL SITUATION

Chapter I

RECENT ECONOMIC GROWTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

4. Chapter I will examine the intrinsic relationship between economic growth and social development and relate various parts of the Report to the global economic and social situation, taking into account both national and international conditions. These national and international conditions include the variegated economic performance in developing and developed countries in an international economic climate that, while permitting some countries to develop at a rapid pace, has constrained the rate of growth of others by limiting import capacity, by restraining the demand for major exports resulting in a fall in export prices and by inflicting other losses of resources from substantial transfers on account of payments for international debt service. Transfers on capital account from the rest of the world have not adequately compensated for such losses. Those international conditions have in turn imposed restraints on government expenditure on social services that have had adverse impacts on the social situation. The adverse impacts on the social situation have been most severe in the least developed countries, mostly in Africa, and in several middle-income countries, mostly in Latin America.

5. There has been a highly visible drop in international tensions, leading to major accomplishments and promising prospects for the diversion of resources from armaments to other uses. Several theatres of war in developing countries have been closed, with excellent opportunities for the improvement of social conditions. However, the major international conflict in the period 1990-1991 in the Persian Gulf region caused a marked worsening in social conditions in the countries immediately affected by war and in those that lost economic opportunities on account of hostilities.

6. There were significant international agreements and decisions to improve the world social situation. Among these, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, adopted by the General Assembly in December 1990, had the broadest coverage and almost universal acceptance by the international community. The Paris Declaration and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, both adopted in September 1990, similarly sought to improve economic and social conditions in the developing countries. The World Summit for Children, held in September 1990, sought, among other things, to improve living conditions for children. The United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in June 1992, is expected to arrive at international arrangements that permit economic growth, essential for eradicating poverty, without permanent damage to the environment.

7. In addition, widespread acceptance of a new paradigm of development has arisen. Within that paradigm, initiative, innovation and enterprise have been identified as distinctly more important contributors to development than hitherto. In the process, a redefinition of the function of Government in economic and social development has been sought. This new paradigm also includes a renewed emphasis on eradicating poverty, raising standards of health and education and equalizing the status of women and men. The emphases on initiative and enterprise, improvements in living conditions and the limited role of Government have raised new issues regarding the relationship of the individual to the State. While the collapse of communism in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Eastern European States has been the most visible demonstration of those issues, they also have been conspicuous in many developing countries.

8. In contrast to the emergence of these international agreements, declarations and perceptions, economic and social conditions have continued to worsen in a large number of developing countries, mostly in Africa and Latin America. Internecine warfare has destroyed economic opportunities and created large masses of refugees fleeing to other countries or other parts of their own countries. Natural disasters in the form of earthquakes, floods and droughts have wreaked destruction and misery on large populations, making refugees out of some of them. However, a large proportion of the world's population living in China, India, Indonesia and the rest of Asia, and elsewhere have achieved remarkable social progress and improvements in living conditions.

9. These contrasts ought to bring under careful scrutiny the importance of domestic policies for social progress and the improvement of living conditions. Many developing countries and former centrally planned economies have had to adopt policies of economic stabilization to control inflation and to make rapid structural adjustments in response to tightening import restraints, accelerate growth of export earnings, reduce the workload of Governments and generally improve the allocation of domestic resources. In the short-term, at least, those policies and adjustments have resulted in loss of employment, lower incomes, a cutting down on social services and a disintegration of the social protection net. At the same time, there is evidence that there has been no deterioration (which might have been expected from strained economic circumstances and the drastic drop in public sector resources) in areas covered by such social indicators as infant and child mortality rates and literacy and school enrolment rates. Such evidence points to coping mechanisms and a more productive use of resources in those areas.

10. The specific social problems studied in part two of the 1993 Report will be discussed in relation to the global economic and social conditions highlighted above, taking into account both national and international conditions.

Part One

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

11. Part one of the 1993 Report will be organized as follows:

Chapter

II.	POPULATION
II.1	Size, distribution, density, growth, urbanization, internal migration (using 1990 round of census)
II.2	Fertility, mortality, age composition, dependency ratio, problems of ageing
II.3	Household size, female-headed households
II.4	Workforce, participation of women
II.5	International migration
II.6	Implications for social policy
III.	HUNGER, MALNUTRITION AND FOOD SUPPLIES
III.1	Malnutrition (both in developing and developed countries)
III.2	Vitamin deficiencies
III.3	Food supplies, especially in Africa and the former centrally planned economies
III.4	Food prices and distribution
III.5	Famine and hunger
III.6	The most vulnerable groups and countries
III.7	Recent changes in food policies
IV.	HOUSING AND SANITATION
IV.1	Indicators: housing, water, waste disposal
IV.2	Homelessness
IV.3	New policies and policy instruments in the housing sector

Chapter

V. EDUCATION AND LITERACY

V.1 Indicators of education: enrolment by level and by sex

V.2 Literacy; newspapers and books; radios, television sets

V.3 Educational input: schools, teachers, equipment

V.4 Access and equity: sex, regional, urban and rural

V.5 New concerns regarding the importance of education and policy responses

VI. HEALTH

VI.1 Indicators of health: infant mortality rate, under-five-years-of-age mortality rate, life expectancy

VI.2 Morbidity patterns, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)

VI.3 Immunization efforts

VI.4 Health-care input (doctors, nurses, hospitals)

VI.5 Access and equity: sex, regional, urban and rural

VI.6 Major directions for policy

VII. UNEMPLOYMENT AND LOW-PRODUCTIVITY EMPLOYMENT

VII.1 Magnitude of the problem in all groups of countries in the new circumstances

VII.2 Developing countries: low-productivity employment and the educated unemployed

VII.3 Developed countries: the new entrants and the long-term unemployed

VII.4 Former centrally planned economies: a new phenomenon

VII.5 Unemployment among women

VII.6 Policy responses

Chapter

VIII. INCOME DISTRIBUTION AND POVERTY

VIII.1 Income levels and differences among countries

VIII.2 Distribution within countries (changes both in developed and developing countries)

VIII.3 Poverty

VIII.4 Policy responses

IX. EXPENDITURE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

IX.1 Patterns of government expenditures on social services, taking into consideration government expenditure for military purposes and for debt servicing, as well as the potential impact of disarmament

IX.2 Distribution: urban, rural, regional

IX.3 Private sector expenditure

IX.4 The role of Government, other organizations and family care

IX.5 New concerns regarding the efficacy and efficiency of traditional means of delivering these services

X. QUALITY OF LIFE

X.1 Significance of the question in considering social conditions

Arbitrariness of composite indices in giving weight to components

Qualitative analysis

Associations between indicators discussed in previous chapters and quality of life

X.2 Crime, violence, delinquency and homelessness

Domestic violence, especially against women and children

Suicide rate

Chapter

X.3 Experience of former centrally planned economies where basic needs had been met

Dissatisfaction with the poor quality of goods and services, shortages, totalitarian control by Government

Desire to speak and associate freely

X.4 Isolation from civil and cultural life

Isolation in developing countries without infrastructure and in the small island countries

Isolation of the aged and the disabled

Traditional sources of entertainment

Access to books, newspapers, television and other sources of entertainment and information

X.5 Leisure and how it is used

Increase in leisure time available to the mass of the people as productivity increases

Use of leisure time

Travel and tourism and adverse effects on areas toured

X.6 Consideration of measures, policies and activities to raise the quality of life

Part Two

MAJOR ISSUES AND DILEMMAS

Chapter XI

MAJOR CHANGES IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

12. Fundamental economic and social institutions have been subject to upheaval in many countries and to radical change in some others. There has been a decisive shift in favour of the private ownership and usufruct of property. The most striking instances are in the former centrally planned economies and in several developing countries. Governments have become less totalitarian and more democratic in form. Institutions espousing human rights, greater equity in the process of development and environmental concerns have become distinctly more vociferous and visible than a decade ago. Cumulative reassessment of the role of the State and Government in the economy and in society has reached the point of a qualitative change in the perception of that role. The organization of offices, factories and other workplaces has been subject to new influences stemming from the advent of new technology and the spread of patterns prevalent in East Asia - prominently so in Japan and the Republic of Korea. Families have been continuing their evolution at a more rapid pace subject to changes in areas that include urbanization, employment of women outside the home, family size and mores. New States have emerged and some intergovernmental organizations have been dissolved; others have been severely challenged while still others have radically changed on account of new relations between countries. Such changes have dramatically affected the lives of millions of people. This chapter will take account of those changes and discuss their consequences for society and individuals.

Chapter XII

NEW CHALLENGES TO SOCIAL SECURITY POLICIES

13. In this chapter social security, as distinct from the many social services and other provisions of the welfare State, is understood as encompassing maintenance transfers that protect individual citizens from risks associated with disability, loss of employment, retirement, inadequate purchasing power and other contingencies. While social security provisions have a redistributive function that may on balance be progressive or regressive, they also have redistributive implications for the younger working population and the retired, the employed and the unemployed, the healthy and the sick, and the able and the disabled. These transfers payments were welcomed by society on both economic and humanitarian grounds. In a context of rapid and sustained economic growth, such transfers were relatively painless and their price was politically acceptable. Owing to more difficult times and for other reasons, social security policies have now been challenged.

14. New challenges have arisen for social security systems in all parts of the world. In most developed countries, problems are due to an environment characterized by slow economic growth, persistently high unemployment levels, ageing populations and changes in family structure. In some cases, social security policies may have increased dependency among certain social groups and contributed to long-term unemployment as well. Debate has also focused on possible trade-off dilemmas between social security policies on the one hand and the importance of a flexible labour supply for economic growth and improved competitiveness in international trade on the other. With rising public expenditure, transfers such as food subsidies have become unendurable burdens in several developing countries. These developments have made it increasingly difficult financially and politically to provide benefits at levels commensurate with need and demand. Growing unemployment and economic stagnation aggravate the problem. More significantly, social security systems often contribute to income and social inequality in developing countries as a result both of the ways in which they are financed and of the ways in which the benefits are allocated. This appears to be a problem that is nearly insoluble politically. As for the former centrally planned economies, their challenge is mainly one of setting up an adequate safety net to protect workers who are unemployed due to market reforms and of maintaining the value of pensions during periods of high inflation.

Chapter XIII

INTEGRATION AND DISINTEGRATION OF COMMUNITIES

15. The integration and disintegration of communities are the combined effects of seemingly contradictory sets of forces. There is much evidence of disintegration in many developing countries and in Eastern Europe. New communities declare themselves nations and resort to armed struggle to establish new States. Such divisions occur on account of ethnic and religious differences that erupt into prominence often after having lain dormant for long stretches of time. A greater degree of freedom from ruling powers, divergent patterns and varying intensities of development among regions, a new consciousness of historical differences and the spread of ethnic conflicts from one country to another all contribute to bringing about these conflicts. However, there are also striking instances of societies seeking greater cohesion in regional integration in order to promote prosperity and peace. Peoples with a shared cultural heritage have tended to come together prompted by the advantages of a larger market and a desire for greater political power internationally. New technology that permits the rapid exchange of information has helped in such processes. The interaction among, and the direction of, these processes will be explored in this chapter. In the short run, international intervention helps avert disasters. In the long run, decentralization of power, protection of minorities, tolerance among communal groups and collaboration in the pursuit of common objectives form the bases for feasible solutions.

Chapter XIV

PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION PATTERNS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

16. Damage to the environment is caused by consumption patterns (involving waste disposal and damage to life-support systems and ecosystems), exploitation of major resources (land, water, forests and plant life) and some techniques of production (generating toxic waste). Continuing rapid population growth is generating unprecedented pressures. High levels of consumption in developed countries generate enormous amounts of waste matter, some of which threatens the destruction of gases that enable life on earth. That resource-intensive patterns and techniques of production have destroyed waterways, topsoils and sources of marine life, has now become evident, especially in the former centrally planned economies. Forests have been destroyed through both overuse and release of toxic substances. The disposal of toxic waste has created enormous problems. In developing countries, natural resources have been overexploited for survival. The extent of these adverse consequences for the environment will be discussed over a wide variety of countries.

17. The rest of the chapter will discuss the nature of policies and policy instruments that enable sustainable development. An account of experience with alternative policy instruments will be provided . Significant policy initiatives at the international level, including those connected with the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, will also be discussed.

Chapter XV

SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY

18. The accumulation of scientific knowledge and its application in production processes during the last several decades have been resulting in a veritable revolution in technology over the last quarter of this century. These new approaches are having widespread economic and social consequences. Since the process is still unfolding, some consequences can be seen only in the distance, while others are conspicuously evident in present-day society. It is obvious that the capacity of countries to adopt this technology depends not on their capacity to invent it but on the availability of entrepreneurs to exploit new opportunities, on the volume of new investment to enable the embodiment of such technology and on a highly educated, skilled workforce with the know-how to bring about that embodiment.

19. The advances in information technology, biotechnology and the material sciences will be briefly noted, with some indication of their prospective applications.

20. One of the most visible consequences of those advances has been the knitting closer together of all parts of the world, whether in news-gathering, data flows, financial transactions or the exchange of other information. The

new technology has effectively broken down national boundaries with regard to the flow of information. Computer-assisted design and manufacture have become an efficient means of producing commodities for discriminating consumers and have probably reduced the comparative advantage of labour-cheap economies in producing certain of those commodities. Numerically controlled machine tools have inflicted a certain amount of "de-skilling" on the labour force. Productivity has risen massively in certain secretarial and clerical jobs, and management is receiving powerful assistance from computers and information systems. Some of the consequences are likely to affect women adversely. Others are changing organizational structures. Still others are contributing to the decentralization of work, in contrast with the factory system, whose tendency to gather workers together in large numbers enabled them to organize as a countervailing power. The new technology is affecting homes: they are becoming workplaces into which enormous amounts of information can be fed. Through its advances, programming is competing very closely with human intelligence, so as to be able to increasingly undertake more of the very functions that have been considered unique to that intelligence.

21. Biotechnology has wide applications in crop agriculture, animal husbandry, the discovery and production of pharmaceutical drugs, the practice of medicine, human reproduction and many other areas. The capacity to alter and otherwise affect genes has created a technology with far-reaching consequences, of which only a few are yet visible. That much of the new knowledge is being discovered and held (through private ownership) by corporations enables those corporations to earn fees from every new application. In contrast, green revolution technology was mostly public property and available to the public at little cost. The new technology also challenges long-accepted legal norms regarding ownership, as in the case of genes that are taken from a person and altered by a technician, the copies subsequently being sold on the market. Similar ethical and legal problems emerge from the new mechanics of human reproduction. A society's capacity to identify the function of each gene and substitute others enables that society to write in its own preferences with regard to animal and human personality. Such practices are starkly contrary to processes of natural evolution and also challenge deeply held humanistic views about equality among humans.

22. Advances in the material sciences have made feasible the application of some of the above-mentioned technology. At the same time, those advances have caused economies in the consumption of natural raw materials and constituted substitutes for them, in some instances damaging the economic fortunes of producers in developing countries.

23. The content of education and training will need to be widely reconsidered in order to absorb the new technology. The destruction on the creative plane caused by this technology will require new investments, which may themselves be more short-lived than those under earlier technology, thereby raising the demand for savings. New vulnerable groups will emerge as these effects bite into society on a large scale. New legal concepts and regulatory devices will need to be developed to meet the challenges posed by the new technology.

Chapter XVI

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND NARCOTIC DRUG ABUSE

24. The abuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco is a personal, family, community and international problem affecting almost every country. The extent of drug abuse and the distribution of users vary from region to region. Although quantification is difficult, total costs to society from drug abuse are substantial. There are direct costs to pay for alcohol, tobacco and drugs. Indirect costs include suffering, ill-health and premature death. Costs in human suffering and human life are manifest in the spread of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) among intravenous users of drugs and in the increasing numbers of critically ill and severely handicapped infants who are born to infected mothers (both legal and illegal drug abusers). There are substantial losses of work time as well as loss of life in the course of industrial and traffic accidents caused by people who are impaired by alcohol or drugs. Care and police activity to prevent drug abuse also constitute large indirect costs. Other social implications of drug abuse, such as the deterioration of life in urban centres, are less well quantified and documented than the health consequences but represent an equally serious problem. At the same time, the production and distribution of alcohol, tobacco and narcotic drugs provide a livelihood to a sizeable workforce and can be a lucrative source of income even to peasants in developing countries.

25. Since the problem is multifaceted, all feasible solutions must encompass measures to control drug production and trafficking as well as curb demand, prevent addiction, rehabilitate and socially reintegrate addicts, and provide alternative sources of income to producers.

26. This chapter will first present estimates for the consumption of alcohol, tobacco, and narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. It will also assess the negative social and economic consequences arising from such consumption. It will then proceed to discuss measures to reduce the demand for alcohol, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances; control production and supply; and intercept drug trafficking. The chapter will conclude with a review of bilateral, interregional and international action against drug abuse.

Chapter XVII

CONCLUSIONS

27. Conclusions relating to the discussions on policy issues appearing in each chapter will be presented in the final chapter.

28. Policies and activities for international cooperation that ensue from those conclusions will be articulated.

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ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on its twelfth session

SUMMARY

During its twelfth session, the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) reviewed the work accomplished by the Institute during 1991. The Board reviewed the Institute's training programme, scholarships and internships, as well as its information, documentation, and communication facilities, including its publication policy. Cooperation with United Nations organizations, research and training institutes, INSTRAW focal points and correspondents was discussed. The work of the Strategic Planning and Finance committees, established by the Board at its eleventh session, was reviewed. The proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 1992-1993 were examined and approved by the Board.

The Board unanimously expressed its deep appreciation for the successful completion of the 1990-1991 work programme. It noted with satisfaction the continuing work and activities of the Institute in the areas of improving statistics to yield better descriptive data on the situation of women relative to that of men, including elderly women and women in the informal sector: women, environment and sustainable development: assessing and developing

* E/1992/100.

appropriate communications, materials on women and development; rural women and credit; and monitoring and evaluation methodologies for programmes and projects on women and development.

The Board also noted the satisfactory outcome of the first meeting of its Strategic Planning Committee, which provided the Institute with guidance regarding the formulation of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. The Board decided that the functions of the Strategic Planning Committee and those of the Finance Committee should be merged and that the Strategic Planning Committee should become a regular adjunct to the programme budget development process.

The Board stressed the specific and unique role of INSTRAW in the assessment, development, evaluation and demonstration of training materials designed to assist in the inclusion of women in development. It recommended that the Institute extend its scholarship and internship programme to include university professors on sabbatical and doctoral students addressing women's issues in their doctoral thesis.

The Board noted with satisfaction the valuable close collaboration between INSTRAW and the regional commissions. In discussing the importance of linkages between INSTRAW and other bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, research institutions and other groups with similar objectives, the Board stressed the need for continuing close collaboration and welcomed the trend of increased cooperation among agencies in developing projects for the advancement of women.

The Board commended the Institute for its comprehensive and lucid programme budget prepared for the biennium 1992-1993 and approved in its entirety the programme of proposed activities with the approved budget ceiling of $4,107,906.

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	1 - 16	4
II.	IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1991: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSTITUTE	17 - 38	7
III.	REVIEW OF THE INSTITUTE'S TRAINING PROGRAMME, SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS	39 - 47	13
IV.	REVIEW OF THE INSTITUTE'S INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES, INCLUDING ITS PUBLICATION POLICY	48 - 58	15
V.	COOPERATION WITH UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS, RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTES, INSTRAW FOCAL POINTS AND CORRESPONDENTS	59 - 83	17
VI.	REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES	84 - 86	22
VII.	PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993	87 - 103	22
VIII.	OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTE	104 - 109	25
IX.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION	110	26
X.	ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION	111 - 123	26

I. MATTERS BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Decisions adopted by the Board

1. The decisions set out in the following paragraphs, which were adopted by the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) at its twelfth session, are brought to the attention of the Economic and Social Council.

1. Implementation of the work programme for 1991: progress report on the Institute

2. The Board expressed its deep appreciation for the successful completion of the 1990-1991 work programme by the Institute, particularly in view of the fact that a major part of the programme's implementation had been carried out under the direction of the Officer-in-Charge in the absence of an appointed Director.

3. The Board noted with satisfaction the continuing work and activities of the Institute in the following areas:

(a) Improving statistics to yield better descriptive data on the situation of women relative to that of men, including elderly women and women in the informal sector;

(b) Women, environment and sustainable development;

(c) Assessing and developing appropriate communication materials for women and development;

(d) Rural women and credit;

(e) Monitoring and evaluation methodologies for programmes and projects on women and development.

4. The Board welcomed the appointment of a Director following its eleventh session in response to the request of the Economic and Social Council in resolution 1991/24 and expressed its satisfaction with the clear focus of the programme of the Institute.

5. The Board noted the satisfactory outcome of the 1st meeting of its ad hoc Strategic Planning Committee. This Committee, created by the Board at its eleventh session, met in September 1991 and provided guidance regarding the formulation of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993. After considering the working of the committee and related matters, the Board decided that the functions of the Strategic Planning Committee and those of

the Finance Committee should be merged and that the resulting body should become a regular adjunct to the programme budget development process.

2. Review of the Institute's training programme, scholarships and internships

6. The Board stressed the specific and unique role of INSTRAW in the assessment, development, evaluation and demonstration of training materials designed to assist in the inclusion of women in development. It recommended the strengthening of that role not only in the area of the sensitization of policy makers and planners to the need to include women in development but also in that of the continuing development of materials to assist with the technical details of including women in mainstream projects. The Board stressed the need to ensure that regional and cultural differences were taken into account in the preparation of training materials.

7. The Board recommended that the Institute extend its scholarship and internship programme to include university professors on sabbatical and doctoral students addressing women's issues in their doctoral thesis. It also agreed that, where possible, advance information should be sent to universities on specific projects for which the Institute would need the assistance of interns (who were generally graduate-level university students).

3. Review of the Institute's information, documentation and communication facilities, including its publication policy

8. The Board endorsed the strengthening of the information, communication and documentation facilities of INSTRAW. It also recommended that a readership survey be conducted prior to any further consideration of changes in the content, format and periodicity of INSTRAW News.

9. The Board recommended further efforts to build on INSTRAW's extensive network of contacts, wherever possible, to provide all publications to institutions concerned with women and development and most specifically to endeavour to locate an appropriate repository in member States for INSTRAW publications. It was urged that INSTRAW pursue every possible means to ensure that all publications were produced in the three languages of the Board. The Board endorsed a proposal to use outside publishers where appropriate for major publications.

10. The Board approved the proposal for strengthening the New York support office of INSTRAW through increased liaison, information and communication services aimed at strengthening relations with the international community and sharpening the image of INSTRAW world wide.

4. Cooperation with United Nations organizations, research and training institutes, INSTRAW focal points and correspondents

11. The Board noted with satisfaction the valuable close collaboration between INSTRAW and the regional commissions and expressed strong support for its continuation and enhancement.

12. The Board expressed deep concern at the continuing inadequacy of funding slated specifically for women's activities and projects devoted to implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and noted the importance of member States' being urged to increase their support to ensure that the organizations charged with the responsibility of removing the obstacles to women's full participation in those activities and projects were enabled to fulfil their mandates. The Board also noted the lack of significant improvement in the relative status of women and stressed the need for continuing close collaboration among international agencies. The Board expressed its satisfaction with proposals that were being explored for collaborative projects in preparation for the 1995 world conference on women.

13. The Board discussed the importance of linkages with other United Nations organizations, regional commissions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, INSTRAW focal points, research institutions, organizations involved in training and other groups with similar interests. It noted with satisfaction that the programme for the biennium 1992-1993 included a large number of collaborative programmes and welcomed the trend of increased cooperation among agencies in developing projects for the advancement of women. The Board unanimously approved the appointment of three new focal points: the Women's Affairs Unit, Bahamas; the Institute for the Study of Women at Mount Saint Vincent University, Canada; and the Directorate-General of the Status and Problems of Women, Turkey.

5. Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 1992-1993

14. The Board complimented the management team and staff of the Institute on the comprehensive and lucid programme budget prepared for the 1992-1993 biennium and decided:

(a) To approve in its entirety the programme of activity of INSTRAW as amended by the Board for the biennium 1992-1993 (INSTRAW/BT/1992/R.6);

(b) To request the Director to implement the proposed activities with the approved budget ceiling of $4,107,906;

(c) To welcome the commencement of work by INSTRAW in the areas of (i) appraisal and evaluation of development strategy and programmes for the maximum impact on women and (ii) (under the general heading making women visible: the valuation of women's contribution to socio-economic development)

its long-term research project on methods for the measurement of the value of women's work including that in the informal sector;

(d) To leave to the discretion of the Director of the Institute the seeking of possible external funding sources for programmes needing additional funding;

(e) To request the Director, in view of the increasing demands on INSTRAW resources, to give priority to those requests for cooperation that would strengthen INSTRAW programmes.

15. The Board, recognizing the importance of recent changes in Eastern European transition countries, approved INSTRAW's participation in the proposed project on women farmers in Eastern Europe. It endorsed the following arrangement: that INSTRAW's contribution would comprise the initial assessment of the situation and needs of these women, the developing of training materials, evaluation and follow-up.

16. The Board identified the need for further work on identifying the necessary conditions for, and the impact of, the participation of more women in political and economic life. It endorsed the preparation by INSTRAW of an additional special project on women in politics and encouraged the Institute to seek both collaborators and funding.

II. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1991: PROGRESS REPORT ON THE INSTITUTE

17. In considering item 4 of its agenda, the Board had before it the following documents:

(a) Implementation of the work programme for 1991: progress report on the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women: report of the Director of the Institute (INSTRAW/BT/1992/R.2);

(b) Report of the Strategic Planning Committee of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees (INSTRAW/BT/1992/CRP.1);

(c) Administrative and financial matters (INSTRAW/BT/1992/CPR.5 and Corr.1).

18. The Director of INSTRAW presented the document on implementation of the work programme for 1991. She emphasized the continuity of INSTRAW programmes past and future and said that research projects that had been carried out by INSTRAW had laid the groundwork for a programme to be implemented during the biennium 1992-1993. She indicated that INSTRAW had more requests for training in statistics and indicators on women than it could manage. Concerning global issues, the Director mentioned the design of policy for women's work in the informal sector and the Institute's activities in environment, development of communication materials and credit and technology programmes. It was

important, she said, to find more effective ways of using assistance, since resources for development were becoming scarce. INSTRAW was trying to focus its resources within a more consolidated programme. It was therefore crucial to increase cooperation with other agencies in order to ensure that available funds would be put to optimum use. The Director then referred to the Institute's work in the area of information, documentation and communication, pointing out that considerable effort had been made to ensure that INSTRAW research activities would receive a high profile during 1991. This had kept the printing unit working at maximum capacity throughout the year; and an initial review had been made to assess the requirements for improving and updating INSTRAW documentation facilities.

19. In opening the discussions that followed, a Board member re-presented an issue considered by the Board at its eleventh session. That issue concerned the dissemination of INSTRAW materials and the urgent need to make them available in at least the three official languages of the Board. To this end, she informed the Board of her Government's interest in assisting in the translation of INSTRAW documents into Spanish. The Director stressed the fact that there was indeed a constant need for good-quality multilingual materials that should also be made available in some of the languages of the regions of Africa and Asia.

20. A Board member indicated her Government's interest in the Institute's work on statistics and indicators on women. In particular, she conveyed her interest in the possibility that the proposed workshop on statistics on women for francophone African countries could be hosted by Morocco so that the Institute's existing efforts on behalf of its preparation would not be wasted. This suggestion was gratefully acknowledged by the Director of INSTRAW.

21. The importance of establishing and/or maintaining strong collaboration between INSTRAW and other United Nations bodies and between INSTRAW and the specialized agencies was stressed by the Board. It was pointed out that INSTRAW, in keeping with its role as an awareness-raiser and in consideration of its limited resources, must actively encourage United Nations organizations to take up issues and develop projects and programmes drawing from the findings of INSTRAW's research and training activities. The Director welcomed this suggestion and referred to the Institute's efforts to maintain a close consultative relationship with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in an attempt to establish a concrete collaboration on the development and implementation of the proposed INSTRAW project on time-use surveys of women's productive activities. This same approach was being applied for other programmes and projects of the Institute to ensure that all relevant bodies became participants at the design stage instead of just at the end. She offered her assurance that the Institute placed great importance on joint endeavours with other bodies to make the best use of its resources and to achieve a strong, sustained impact on target groups.

22. Attention was drawn to the emerging importance of addressing the situation of women in Eastern Europe and countries in transition. The proposed INSTRAW project of carrying out a needs assessment, on the exchange of farmers of Hungary and Bulgaria with those of the United States of America was considered a significant contribution in the area of addressing the current situation of women in transition countries. A Board member suggested that it would be useful to undertake a similar experiment for Africa using the experience gained from the present project.

23. The Board expressed its satisfaction at the important contribution of INSTRAW in the area of improving the use and quality of statistics and indicators on women. Clarification was provided on the following points: INSTRAW did not have as part of its mandate the collection of statistical data, nor did it have the facilities and resources required to develop and maintain a comprehensive database on women. The catalytic role of INSTRAW in this area had been achieved through interlocking research and training activities addressing both the methodological and conceptual issues for improving the use and quality of statistical data on women, sensitizing producers and policy makers alike to the pressing issues and problems related to women's invisibility in the statistical system and encouraging producers and users of statistics to work together in developing their own national databases on women.

24. The fundamental importance of comparative statistics on women and men and gender-disaggregated statistics and of the need to develop a simple commentary on, and analysis of, those statistics, to be presented in various attractive ways to different target groups, was emphasized. In this connection, the Director mentioned the Institute's participation in the preparation of the second issue of The World's Women: Trends and Statistics, which was being coordinated by the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat. She emphasized that INSTRAW would be involved from the initial stages in preparation of the publication, which was expected to be completed in time for the 1995 world conference on women.

25. Considerable concern was expressed about the type of follow-up action that INSTRAW had carried out in response to the recommendations emanating from the workshops on statistics and indicators on women in the informal sector conducted in Africa. Particular attention was paid to policy recommendations specifying concrete action plans for countries to implement. The Director clarified the situation as follows: in so far as the Institute's mandate comprised research and training, it could only bring to the fore issues and problems that needed to be addressed, develop and demonstrate research and training methods, supply information and encourage improving data-collection techniques. She pointed out, however, that recognizing the importance of addressing the concerns of policy makers, most of the national and subregional workshops of INSTRAW had been attempting to achieve a balance of participation among government policy makers, non-governmental organizations, academic institutions and researchers.

26. The representative of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) made reference to the project funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on women in the informal sector in Africa in which INSTRAW, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Organization of African Unity had participated, with the Economic Commission for Africa as the implementing agency. She pointed out that while some form of breakthrough had been made as a result of this project, more concrete follow-up action had to be developed for a more concrete impact on women in the informal sector. In this connection, she mentioned the importance of creating pressure groups, such as associations of women entrepreneurs and of women traders, to carry on from the initial efforts made and thus ensure an impact on target groups. To this end, she reported that the Economic Commission for Africa recognized the need to assist non-governmental and professionally oriented women's machineries with the capacity to carry out a more sustained effort, since national machineries created within and through government structure were often subject to change.

27. INSTRAW's programme on statistics and indicators on elderly women was commended by the Board for its holistic approach in highlighting the status and problems of elderly women while attempting to make their contribution in the informal sector statistically visible and adequately recognized. It was suggested that this approach could also be adopted in approaching issues and problems connected with young girls, through emphasizing their role in and contribution to the informal sector. While supporting more efforts to document and analyse gender bias as it affected young girls, the representative of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) informed the Board of a programme carried out by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the girl child that had included a comprehensive research component. On the other hand, the ex officio member of the Board representing the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) emphasized that while sectoral clientele-oriented approaches were necessary, it might be strategically preferable to address sectoral problems concerning the population of women as one issue. He explained that for instance projects and programmes for women in the informal sector could equally address issues related to, and problems and needs of, elderly women, young girls and the disabled.

28. A Board member pointed out the importance of undertaking studies using anthropological/sociological research methodologies, for instance in analysing the situation of women within the cultural context. Another Board member also raised the issue of the importance of addressing the topic of attitudes about women and towards women's issues in order to identify and change the attitudes that impeded the promotion of the status of women. It was noted that there was still very little research and support for the study of attitudinal changes even in developed countries. In this respect, INSTRAW's work on elderly women was both commended for its attempt to eliminate the stereotype of elderly women as a social burden and recognized as an example of the Institute's efforts to change attitudes about women.

29. A Board member asked whether the Institute had addressed such topics (which were becoming increasingly problematic in both the developed and

developing countries) as family life, family planning, battered women and teenage pregnancies. In response, the Director pointed out that many studies had already been conducted on those topics, but not by INSTRAW. Moreover, she expressed the view that given the mandate of INSTRAW, the crucial task for the Institute was to evaluate the different approaches to such problems and develop effective analytical tools for addressing them. This, in turn, would lead to concrete policy recommendations. In this connection the representative of the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs reiterated to the Board that the Division, with its responsibility for monitoring the activities of the different agencies concerning the advancement of women, collected and produced considerable information that was important for developing specific programmes and projects on specific issues. He noted, for example, that it was the responsibility of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations Population Fund to deal with issues concerning fertility, teenage pregnancy and migration and that the Division for the Advancement of Women had mandated activities on violence against women. In general he suggested to the Board that in identifying priority areas for INSTRAW, it also consider the work that other bodies had completed or had been working on and the added value to be gained from INSTRAW's addressing the issues covered in that work.

30. The representative of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) provided some clarification on the objectives of the international consultation on the economic advancement of rural women, organized by IFAD and held in Fiuggi (Italy) from 28 to 30 October 1991, in which INSTRAW participated. She also provided a brief description of the objective, participation and status of the Summit on the Economic Advancement of Rural Women (which took place in Geneva in March 1992). In this connection the Deputy Director assured her of the Institute's intention to continue close collaboration with IFAD.

31. Concerning the programme on the Role of women on water-supply and sanitation, the Director of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat informed the Board of the International Conference on Water and the Environment: Development Issues for the Twenty-first Century, held in Dublin from 26 to 31 January 1992, in which women's issues had been reflected in the four guiding principles adopted. She commended INSTRAW's effort to ensure that women were included. In addition, she indicated that the updated modules on water-supply and sanitation financed by the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development were being translated into French. The Interregional Training Workshop on Women, Water-Supply and Sanitation, jointly organized by INSTRAW, ESCAP and the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat, would be held at ESCAP headquarters in Bangkok from 25 to 29 May 1992 and would use those modules.

32. She reiterated that the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development had attached great importance to its collaboration with INSTRAW in the design and development of concrete follow-up activities in response to the recommendations drawn up at the Global Assembly on Women and the Environment held in Miami in November 1991. She informed the Board that INSTRAW, the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat and the State Science and Technology Commission of the Government of the People's Republic of China were convening the Interregional Workshop on the Role of Women in Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development, to be held in Beijing, China, from 9 to 15 September 1992. She called particularly on the members of the Board to publicize that workshop and to secure support from their respective Governments for developing and carrying out more concrete action-oriented follow-up activities.

33. Clarification was sought on the use of the multimedia modular package on women, water-supply and sanitation and on the target groups it addressed. The Director indicated that that package allowed for flexibility: each module could be used independently by different groups at different levels of knowledge - for example in the training of a spectrum ranging from trainers and community-level workers to development planners and technicians.

34. Referring to the scholarship, fellowship and internship programme of the Institute, a Board member suggested that training should be made available to development planners and policy makers in addition to scholars and university professors. In that connection, the Director clarified the fact that while scholars selected under that programme normally assisted in the Institute's research activities, most of them also worked closely with the policy makers of their own countries. Moreover, it was pointed out that it was also important to train young researchers and invest in their development, since they were potential decision makers. It was therefore suggested that a variety of training activities be undertaken that would equally address scholars, university professors and policy makers.

35. Under the discussion on information, documentation and communication much concern was expressed regarding the modalities of disseminating information about INSTRAW. In that connection, a Board member sought clarification on the structure of the INSTRAW mailing list and the dissemination of INSTRAW publications. It was important, she said, that a mechanism be developed to indicate who was receiving the Institute's publications at the national level. She suggested that it would be important for INSTRAW to make contact with national libraries in order to have them serve as a depository for the Institute's published research studies, thus making those studies available to students and researchers. She highlighted the importance of having in each country a centre where all INSTRAW research and training materials would be available.

36. The Chief of the Information, Documentation and Communications Unit pointed out that the INSTRAW mailing list had been developed mainly using the names of participants in INSTRAW seminars and workshops and its network of

non-governmental organizations and academic institutions and through its approved focal points at the national level. With the strengthening of the documentation facilities of the Institute, the mailing list would be reorganized.

37. A Board member pointed out that since policy formulation was the responsibility of national institutions, INSTRAW should pay special attention to sending its research publications and other published information to the national machineries that were the bodies responsible for formulating and implementing policies, particularly in the African region.

38. Another Board member suggested that INSTRAW should consider disseminating information about its work through video or audiovisual programmes to be sent to regional and national television stations. In response, the Director indicated that that might not be the most appropriate approach, considering the type of work carried out by INSTRAW and the audience it was addressing. Furthermore, mass media reports usually did not attribute work to individual organizations of the United Nations system but to the United Nations as a whole.

III. REVIEW OF THE INSTITUTE'S TRAINING PROGRAMME, SCHOLARSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

39. In considering item 5 of its agenda the Board had before it the document entitled "Review of INSTRAW training strategies and techniques regarding women in development" (INSTRAW/BT/1992/R.3).

40. In introducing the item, the Director gave a brief overview of the principles behind the new programme budget. The principles to which some of the activities in the training programme related were based on the discussions of the Strategic Planning Committee of the Board, which had met in September 1991. Those activities involved making women visible and the impact of structural adjustment on women.

41. In reviewing document INSTRAW/BT/1992/R.3, the Director brought to the Board's attention the new approach of the Institute in developing training material that could more effectively reach specific target groups and better respond to the constantly changing development scene of the 1990s. Elaborating further, she stated that the main thrust in this new focus would be to continually upgrade and simplify instructive materials that could be applicable on a regional and subregional basis.

42. As to the scholarship and internship programme, she pointed out that INSTRAW's new orientation, in using this possibility of obtaining highly competent persons able to provide the Institute with skills and knowledge in particular areas related to its work, would be following closely the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee.

43. Recalling the Institute's mandate many Board members emphasized that training constituted a fundamental part of that mandate and reflected upon the

need for rethinking INSTRAW's role in training. Some felt that INSTRAW's role in that area should be limited to the production of training materials, while others considered that the training of trainers was also important. Training was a means of further extending research findings and insights into field action; in addition, its making the work of INSTRAW visible could in turn be useful for fund-raising. Various Board members mentioned other possibilities where INSTRAW could take a leadership role and provide advisory services to other United Nations bodies in the development of gender-training approaches and materials.

44. In this connection, several Board members expressed concern that if the Institute was to assume a leadership role, there would be a need to strengthen its capacities for developing training materials. It was pointed out that though the Institute might have recourse to consultants for the preparation of training materials, follow-up and impact of the training could be overseen only by the Institute. Several suggestions were put forth concerning the specific manner in which this could be implemented. Specifically, the discussion related to whether INSTRAW should obtain the services of a training expert on a permanent or consultancy basis. The Director informed the Board that among the possibilities considered had been the secondment of training specialists from cooperating Governments, scholarships from donor countries and the contracting of experts for a specific period to carry out a determined project. Referring to the International Conference on Gender, Training and Development Planning, held in Bergen, Norway, from 13 to 15 May 1991, the representative of UNIFEM emphasized the express need to further assess the effectiveness of existing gender-training methodologies. She noted that some effective methodologies applied in developing countries often lacked adequate packaging for wider use and that there was also a major gap with respect to gender-training tools for women at the grass-roots level.

45. Some Board members expressed concern about the content of the training materials to be prepared by INSTRAW. Some felt that sensitization was no longer so necessary. After considerable discussion it was agreed by most that sensitization was still needed but must be accompanied with more practical how-to guidelines, including sectoral information at regional and subregional levels. It was also agreed that the content of the materials should include both substantive and methodological issues. On the subject of training methodology, the Board considered that INSTRAW should include, along with the practical guidelines, some information on the evaluation (in terms of effectiveness) of different training strategies. The Director of INSTRAW indicated that although there was still a need for sensitization, there was an increasing demand for how-to materials. The Institute was continuously evaluating the effectiveness of different ways of approaching training. She further stressed that the Institute should generally not directly undertake the actual training, but rather (after testing the material produced by INSTRAW), ensure that other United Nations bodies and agencies and groups funded by these and other relevant groups carry it out. She further stressed that the Institute should comprise the developers, testers, demonstrators and distributors of training material.

46. Concerning the target audience of INSTRAW's training, it was suggested that through workshops organized jointly with other United Nations bodies the Institute could reach policy makers as well as officials and field personnel of international and United Nations bodies at different levels. One Board member suggested that INSTRAW should become more involved in the training of teachers and their students on gender and related issues as this group represented the policy makers of the future. A Board member felt that INSTRAW should concentrate on developing training materials only in those areas in which the Institute had already developed a certain expertise. She noted for example that INSTRAW did not have the possibilities to competently develop curricula and felt that its role instead should be to provide information on women for other institutions, those equipped to develop the appropriate curricula.

47. Much discussion centred on the issue of duplication of training efforts. Some felt that there was much duplication of training efforts and that close coordination was therefore required. The desire was expressed, however, that this coordinating role not be assumed by INSTRAW but rather left to the existing coordinating mechanisms within the United Nations system. Others considered that duplication should not be of great concern, given the overwhelming need for gender training.

IV. REVIEW OF THE INSTITUTE'S INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES, INCLUDING ITS PUBLICATION POLICY

48. In considering item 6 of its agenda, the Board had before it the document entitled "Review of INSTRAW's information, communication and documentation facilities" (INSTRAW/BT/1992/R.4).

49. In introducing the item the Director referred to the Strategic Planning Committee, which had agreed that the Institute should upgrade and strengthen INSTRAW's information, communication and documentation component. She informed the Board of actions taken to this effect.

50. Several Board members provided information on existing information networks and suggested that INSTRAW should connect with one or more of them.

51. The need to re-examine and possibly extend the mailing list was considered important, as was the need to continuously maintain and expand both existing links and information channels.

52. A Board member suggested that INSTRAW should review its policy of free distribution of its publications to developed countries. She supported the trend within the United Nations system towards developed countries' having to pay for major publications, particularly since the Institute depended wholly on voluntary contributions. She agreed that a readership survey could provide useful information on what readers wished to see included in INSTRAW News.

53. A Board member suggested that INSTRAW News could be made more attractive by using colour photographs. The additional expense might be underwritten through advertisements.

54. Some Board members referred to the problems inherent in the dissemination of documents and emphasized the importance of universities' being made aware of INSTRAW's publications. Another Board member concurred and said that furthermore universities could pay for research reports. She also suggested that INSTRAW might consider following the UNICEF model of generating income through the sale of posters, cards and similar material.

55. The representative of the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW) noted that difficulties were frequently encountered, particularly by small institutes or units in attempting to collect income through the sale of publications and that this often hindered distribution. He indicated that there were alternatives, such as operating through the sales section of the Publishing Division of the United Nations Secretariat or through joint ventures with outside publishers. The ex officio member of the Board from ESCAP agreed with the suggestions made, indicating that the sales section had recently published a book through a commercial publisher and that it would be useful to explore such a possibility. A commercial publisher had the added advantage of providing publicity, in addition to royalties and a distribution network. A Board member stressed that another possibility was to include INSTRAW publications within a given publisher's series concerning women. This would also facilitate a wider dissemination of INSTRAW's work.

56. The Director indicated that INSTRAW was considering the use of outside publishers. The use of well-known experts, although more costly than use of INSTRAW staff would eventually attract interest from good publishers and hence be more cost-effective. She added that INSTRAW would be interested in expanding its distribution chain and in receiving a sufficient number of free copies for distribution by the Institute.

57. A Board member sought information about plans for INSTRAW Review, following the first issue (on women, environment and sustainable development), to be ready in 1992. The Deputy Director indicated that during the eleventh session of the INSTRAW Board the topic of women and communications had been suggested as a possible theme for a special issue publication, which could be produced by the end of 1993. Another Board member suggested that another issue could be devoted to compiling experience on gender training.

58. A Board member sought clarification concerning the strengthening of the INSTRAW support office at United Nations Headquarters. The Director reiterated that the reorganization of the Information, Communication and Documentation Unit was in accordance with the decisions taken during the eleventh session of the Board and confirmed by the Strategic Planning Committee.

V. COOPERATION WITH UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTES, INSTRAW FOCAL POINTS AND CORRESPONDENTS

59. In considering item 7 of the agenda, the Board had before it the document entitled "Cooperation with United Nations organizations, research and training institutes, INSTRAW focal points and correspondents" (INSTRAW/BT/1992/R.5 and INSTRAW/BT/1992/R.5/Add.1).

60. The Director introduced the item by emphasizing the importance of non-governmental organizations. She stressed their effectiveness as special groups tackling emerging problems in a flexible manner. She mentioned that cooperation with non-governmental organizations was an important part of the Institute's work in converting research findings into action.

61. The representative of DAW pointed out that coordination between the bodies and agencies of the United Nations system on a regular basis was essential, particularly in view of the forthcoming 1995 world conference on women which would be the first global conference since the adoption, in 1985, of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. He said that it had become apparent that the situation of women had not progressed to the extent anticipated and that in many areas there had been retrogression. As this was not acceptable, the 1995 conference would be a crisis conference. It would provide an opportunity for women's organizations at the national, regional and international level to revive commitment to the advancement of women, as well as an opportunity to build on the existing base of cooperation. He stressed that it was important to use the preparatory process in a common interest, especially one related to fund-raising, since goals could not be achieved with currently available resources. A joint effort was needed to raise more funds and members of the INSTRAW Board could make a case to member States for additionality.

62. The ex officio member of the Board from ESCAP mentioned with appreciation the close cooperation and collaboration that existed between his organization and INSTRAW. He informed the Board that a Ministerial Conference on the Status of Women in Asia and the Pacific would be convened by ESCAP in Indonesia in 1994 as a regional preparatory meeting for the 1995 world conference on women and invited INSTRAW and all other concerned bodies and agencies of the United Nations system to participate actively in the meeting. He briefly reviewed several ESCAP activities that would serve as input into the preparations for the regional conference, including the project on a Women's Information Network for Asia and the Pacific (WINAP), the project on the integration of women's concerns into development planning and the project on legal literacy for women. In closing, he suggested that cooperation between ESCAP and INSTRAW and harmonization of their programmes of work in areas of mutual interest, particularly preparatory to the 1994 regional Ministerial Conference and the 1995 world conference, might be further strengthened through bilateral consultations.

63. The ex officio member of the Board from the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) informed the Board of activities recently carried out by the Commission and of the Fifth Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held at Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles from 16 to 19 September 1991. The objective of the Fifth Regional Conference had been to evaluate what had been done to implement the Regional Plan of Action for the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean in order to meet the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. The Fifth Regional Conference had adopted resolutions concerning: (a) a new regional plan of action, (b) women and human resources, (c) women and politics, (d) women and violence and (e) cooperation, collaboration and networking. ECLAC was now working on the preparation for the Sixth Regional Conference, to be hosted by Argentina in 1994, which would be the preparatory conference for the region for the 1995 world conference on women. The ex officio member of the Board from ECLAC also indicated some areas for joint activities between ECLAC and INSTRAW, such as the informal sector and women and politics.

64. The ex officio member of the Board from the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) said that by participating in the sessions of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees, she had been able to disseminate the views and recommendations of the Board in the African region. Annual reports had been given to the African Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development (ARCC) which had, in turn, presented its comments to the ECA Conference of Ministers. ECA had collaborated closely in the training activities of INSTRAW, such as the testing of the modules on women, water-supply and sanitation, and in the training workshops on statistics on women in selected countries in Africa. In this respect, Handbook on Compilation of Statistics in the Informal Sector in Industry, Trade and Service in Africa, produced by INSTRAW in cooperation with the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat, was very much appreciated. The ex officio member of the Board from ECA informed the Board of the four major areas of ECA's work:

(a) Ensuring that the issue of women was reflected in the major strategies of the African region;

(b) Monitoring the situation of African women periodically to bring emerging problems to the attention of policy makers;

(c) Providing advisory services to member States in strategic areas designed for the advancement of women;

(d) Re-examining the concept of national machineries in the light of socio-economic changes in the region.

The preparatory regional conference would be held in Dakar, Senegal, in 1994.

65. The ex officio member of the Board from the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) informed the Board that within the Commission activities for women were divided into three categories: enhancement of women's economic and social roles; collection of data and dissemination of information, a project to which INSTRAW had contributed; and identification of needs of women, including the project on participation of women in food and textile industries.

66. ESCWA welcomed working with INSTRAW and the regional commissions on parallel programming in areas of mutual interest such as new and renewable sources of energy. Concerning future activities, the objective of the women's programme was to view important issues within the context of the region as affected by different factors, the most recent having been the Persian Gulf Crisis and its social and economic consequences. The women's programme for the biennium 1992-1993 would give special attention to the hardships of women returnees and their families as they faced loss of income and the disruption of their social system and as they endeavoured to reintegrate into their societies of origin.

67. The representative from IFAD questioned why cooperation with United Nations organizations was not reflected in the document under consideration. The Director pointed out that there were abundant references to cooperation in the Institute's report on implementation of the work programme for 1991. Having stressed the complementarity of the work of UNIFEM and INSTRAW, the representative of IFAD gave an example of additionality to secure funding for both organizations from a major donor. She informed the Board that in State of the World - Rural Poverty, IFAD would have a chapter with statistics on women.

68. The representative from UNDP indicated UNDP's interest in greater collaboration with INSTRAW. She informed the Board that UNDP had adopted the participatory approach for all its activities. She added that INSTRAW might be part of the research team undertaking to assess this approach for use in mainstreaming gender into development. She also hoped to benefit from INSTRAW's expertise in new training methodologies and training follow-up.

69. The resident representative of UNDP in the Dominican Republic commented on the extremely productive relationship between his office and INSTRAW. He also reported that there had been recent consultations between the two organizations concerning specific problems related to women in the Dominican Republic. In this connection, he highlighted the two main areas where UNDP and INSTRAW could collaborate, namely, (a) INSTRAW's programme on environment and development and (b) INSTRAW's programme on training with particular emphasis on structural adjustment (an issue that was highly relevant not only to the situation in the Dominican Republic but to that of most countries in Latin America). He mentioned that UNDP wished to take advantage of the presence of INSTRAW to benefit from its wide experience and the results of its work in the area of research and training. He mentioned that his office would like to cooperate with INSTRAW in the implementation of programmes and projects in the country. The Director agreed that the strengthening of

cooperation between INSTRAW and UNDP was important and noted that the Institute within its proposed programme budget intended to test and evaluate in the Dominican Republic the gender-training materials that were currently being prepared.

70. A Board member expressed concern about how INSTRAW could establish with the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) a special interest in the issue of Eastern European countries in transition. She also emphasized the need to establish a closer relationship with the institutions that worked in the area of training to harmonize experiences and review materials and methods.

71. In response, the Director informed the Board member of the Institute's collaborative work in the area of statistics. Regarding the suggestion that INSTRAW should systematically hold workshops, the Director indicated that INSTRAW did not have the capacity to do so and did not consider itself an operational training organization. She said that there were many training organizations that were better equipped for such a function and that INSTRAW could collaborate with them.

72. A Board member said that as a result of an INSTRAW request for information on women in decision-making positions, she had become aware that a large amount of material was available in her country and that such material, included along with other studies carried out in Africa, could constitute a comparative study on the issue.

73. The representative of UNIFEM informed the Board that close cooperation and consultations with INSTRAW were important in particular on participatory research and training for women at the grass-roots level. She also hoped that the report of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees on its next session would reflect collaboration with UNIFEM and other United Nations organizations in specific areas of common interest such as research on women in mining.

74. A Board member suggested that it would be of interest for INSTRAW to consider participatory research as another technique for collecting data. The relevant studies that were being prepared by the regional commissions should be sent to strengthen the Institute's capacity as a research centre. Concerning ways to improve cooperation in the ECE region she suggested that one alternative would be to strengthen the INSTRAW focal points of the region.

75. Another Board member referring to cooperation between INSTRAW and its focal points said that it was essential for INSTRAW approved focal points to have a good networking overview within their countries and that this should be highlighted.

76. A Board member supported the Institute's intention to widen the concept of what correspondents should do, as well as the view that they should work more systematically in mutual areas of interest.

77. Another Board member queried if INSTRAW had been in contact with Eastern European countries other than Bulgaria and Hungary with a view to implementing collaborative activities.

78. A representative of Dirección General de Promoción de la Mujer (DGPM), INSTRAW's focal point in the Dominican Republic, read a message sent by the Director of that institution. DGPM expressed its satisfaction at INSTRAW's work and also indicated that there was still much that needed to be accomplished on behalf of women. It recommended that INSTRAW evaluate what had been accomplished during the past 15 years with a view to assisting in the formulation of policies and guidelines that would result in concrete actions favouring women. The institution wished to request financial assistance from INSTRAW to support some of its ongoing projects. DGPM hoped that INSTRAW, as a specialized body of the United Nations for issues related to women, would foster a policy that allowed for a closer relationship with women's organizations at the national level.

79. After much discussion on the criteria for selecting INSTRAW focal points as well as other topics relating to their functioning, it was decided that a separate agenda item concerning focal points would be included for the thirteenth session of the Board. Several Board members recalled discussions on focal points held in previous Board sessions and in the Strategic Planning Committee. They recognized that as focal points nominated officially were not always the most appropriate, the Institute should seek alternative national entities for the purpose of establishing networking relations. It was suggested that proposals on how focal points could be activated be prepared for discussion by the Board at its thirteenth session.

80. In this regard, the Deputy Director recalled the subregional meeting held in 1990 among the focal points in the Mediterranean region. The participants at this meeting had expressed the desire to repeat this activity as they had considered it extremely valuable. She pointed out that should the Board consider such a strategy, budgetary or extrabudgetary funds would have to be sought. Providing focal points with guidelines was also considered to be a useful mechanism for securing more active participation. It was pointed out that generally the most active focal points were those in which Board members were involved.

81. The former President of the Board recalled that some decisions regarding focal points had been taken at its eleventh session. Enumerating these decisions she mentioned that (a) letters containing guidelines for nominating more appropriate institutes should be sent to Governments, (b) guidelines should be sent to focal points to give orientation to their activities and (c) regional meetings for focal points should be held on a regular basis.

82. The participation of Board members in identifying focal points was considered important. In this regard, special assistance was requested in the identification and establishment of focal points in Eastern Europe in order to establish a stronger INSTRAW presence.

83. The Board unanimously approved the nominations of three focal points for INSTRAW as contained in document INSTRAW/BT/1992/R.5/Add.1.

VI. REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE STRATEGIC PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

84. The President of the Strategic Planning Committee, in an oral presentation, summarized the discussions and the recommendations that had ensued during the first meeting of the Committee held at INSTRAW headquarters, 25 to 27 September 1991. Those recommendations had included a review of the Institute's publication policy, a systematic approach to research and training institutes at the regional and national levels in addition to development of working relations with other United Nations organizations, and a sharper focus on the problem of structural adjustment to be reflected in the proposed programme budget for 1992-1993.

85. The positive contribution of the Strategic Planning Committee was affirmed by many Board members. They also emphasized the need to repeat the exercise on a biennial basis sufficiently in advance of the Board session so as to have the Committee's deliberations reflected in the proposed programme budget.

86. At the 1st meeting of the Board, a specific agenda item was added to deal with the review of the work of the Strategic Planning and Finance committees; however, it was suggested that the guidelines for the functioning of those committees could be discussed informally. Some of the operational and structural aspects needed to be elaborated as well as the linkages between the Strategic Planning Committee, the Institute's management team and the Board.

VII. PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

87. In considering item 9 of the agenda, the Board had before it the following documents:

(a) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (INSTRAW/BT/1992/R.6);

(b) Training needs of women in transitional Eastern Europe countries: Bulgaria and Hungary (INSTRAW/BT/1992/CRP.2);

(c) Development of a typology to assess credit programmes and the effect of including women: an impact analysis (INSTRAW/BT/1992/CRP.3);

(d) Valuation of women's contribution to socio-economic development using time-use techniques (INSTRAW/BT/1992/CRP.4);

(e) Administrative and financial matters (INSTRAW/BT/1992/CRP.5 and Corr.1).

88. The Director briefly presented an outline of the activities for the biennium and indicated that the deliberations of the Strategic Planning Committee had been reflected in the programme budget.

89. Some Board members who formed part of the Strategic Planning Committee were concerned that structural adjustment had not been adequately reflected in the programme budget. The Director then explained that since the problem of the impact of structural adjustment on women could not be analysed without reliable data, the proposed programme budget clearly involved the generation of baseline data, without which structural adjustment considerations for policy actions were not possible.

90. The Institute was commended for the clarity and presentation of the proposed programme budget.

91. Board members noted with appreciation the Institute's efforts to concentrate on fewer programmes and projects in line with the recommendations made at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting, at which the suggestions made in the evaluation of the Institute carried out in 1990 had been taken note of. The Director assured the Board that this consolidation of activities did not preclude the Institute's responding to current and emerging issues of concern to women.

92. Some queries were also put forward on the percentage distribution of the budget among training activities and staff and travel requirements. The Director pointed out that in general the budget had been evenly balanced, but as the research and training activities were interlinked it was difficult to make such a breakdown. Some clarification was also sought and provided on the concepts of, and budget appropriations for, temporary posts, common staff costs, consultancies and contractual services.

93. Concerning staffing the Board queried if the Institute had been adequately staffed for the implementation of the core programme. The Director acknowledged that it had not been adequately staffed, but expressed her expectation that through collaborative arrangements with other bodies this problem could be partially solved. Regarding the possibility of additional core posts in the research and training unit of the Institute, the Director noted that owing to budgetary constraints it was preferable to have a small and permanent multidisciplinary staff, while contracting consultants for specialized tasks as and when needed. This would allow for flexibility, given the changing needs of the Institute.

94. The Director also stated that all of the programmes were underfunded and collaborative efforts could help to secure additional funding for those programmes. Moreover, she explained that the special projects, although extrabudgetary financially speaking, would also require backup and support from INSTRAW staff.

95. The policy of engaging consultants to carry out specific activities was reviewed and discussed at some length. It was noted that apart from the flexibility it offered, engaging consultants undoubtedly added to resources and upgraded the degree of exposure of staff in specific areas of expertise. The Director emphasized that the core staff was directly involved in the design and implementation of the core programmes and also worked very closely with the consultants.

96. The Chief Administrative Officer of INSTRAW clarified the point that since the need for consultants depended exclusively on the nature of activities being carried out, that need varied from period to period. He thus pointed out that the Institute did not have the infrastructure for keeping specialists for every specific programme area within its regular staffing.

97. Clarification was also furnished by the Director concerning the budget lines on scholarships and fellowships. She pointed out that in response to the recommendations of the Strategic Planning Committee meeting held in September 1991, INSTRAW was exploring other forms of exchange of experts. For instance, INSTRAW was now pursuing the approach of inviting professors who were on sabbatical leave to work in the research programmes of the Institute as scholars or consultants. They should not, however, be considered replacements for consultants. If this approach did not prove wholly successful, the Institute would reconsider making financial provision for fellowships and scholarships in the next programme budget.

98. Interest and concern was expressed regarding the importance of convening seminar-workshops on gender training, and a suggestion was made on the subject of adding an allocation in the programme budget for implementing such an activity. While this suggestion was welcomed by the Director, she explained that the preparations for gender-training materials was still in progress and to hold a seminar-workshop would be premature. She suggested if the Board so wished it could provide, and append to the proposed programme budget, a list of priority areas for INSTRAW to consider in its core programme subject to the availability of funds.

99. Many Board members expressed interest in INSTRAW's proposal concerning the exchange of Hungarian and Bulgarian farmers with those of the United States. The importance of conducting a seminar-workshop to gather together the expertise and experiences of women in agriculture in the region and of preparing a publication was particularly noted. Moreover, it was pointed out that while the preliminary study as described in the project proposal was indeed necessary to assess the situation and needs of such women, the proposal might require further revision of phases and approaches based on the results of that study. Thus, it was suggested that a workshop could be designed and conducted as a latter part of the project. The representative of the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) expressed particular interest in this proposal and reported the positive support of the Commission for the project.

100. Turning to the proposed programme budget of the Information, Communications, and Documentation Unit, some queries were made concerning the acquisition of equipment and periodical publications. The proposed budget for this Unit was approved with amendments on the provision of funds for INSTRAW support activities in Washington, D.C., and the proposed provisions for strengthening networks with the focal points and non-governmental organizations.

101. The budget for administrative and programme support was also reviewed and approved as presented.

102. Proposed special projects with secured funding were also reviewed. The Director added that apart from those reflected in the document other project proposals had been prepared after its preparation and hence could not be included. She enumerated all the other special project proposals and the status of funding for them. The Board endorsed those proposals.

103. In concluding the discussion, the Board approved the proposed programme budget for the 1992-1993 biennium of $4,107,906 with the changes suggested, leaving to the management of the Institute the responsibility for amending the budget as recommended.

VIII. OTHER MATTERS RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INSTITUTE

104. A Board member raised the issue of the functioning of the Finance Committee, which had been created during the eleventh session of the Board, at the same time that the Strategic Planning Committee had been formed. She explained that since no activities had been undertaken during the previous year, its functions could be assumed by the Strategic Planning Committee. This amalgamation was supported by another member of the Board. She considered it too expensive for the Institute to bring the members of these two separate committees together. She suggested that another possibility could be the holding of a meeting of the Finance Committee just prior to the session of the Board of Trustees.

105. The Director indicated that she considered the whole Board of Trustees a more cost-effective fund-raising support system than any outside entity. She commended the Board for the positive way in which it had assisted her in her recent fund-raising missions.

106. The President of the Board put forth the proposition that the Finance Committee be combined with the Strategic Planning Committee.

107. A Board member drew the attention of the Board to the fact that the linkage between members of the Strategic Planning Committee and the other members of the INSTRAW Board of Trustees was weak. She said that mechanisms should be established to improve communications. For example, the minutes of the Committee meetings could be sent to the Board members and they in turn should have the opportunity to respond to the President of the Board on the proposals made by the Strategic Planning Committee. This should then form the basis for the preparation of the proposed programme of work and budget that would be sent to the Board for examination and approval.

108. The Director indicated that the Strategic Planning Committee would have to meet no later than the month of June to permit the Committee to get feedback from other members of the Board and to enable the Institute to prepare the proposed programme of work and budget in accordance with the regulations and rules of the United Nations.

109. The President of the Board suggested that the Board draw up guidelines for the functioning of the Committee that would also include its relationship with the other members of INSTRAW's Board of Trustees.

IX. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE BOARD ON ITS TWELFTH SESSION

110. At its 7th meeting, on 21 February 1992, the Board adopted the report on its twelfth session (INSTRAW/BT/1992/R.7 and Add.1-5).

X. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

111. The twelfth session of the Board of Trustees of INSTRAW was held at the Institute's headquarters at Santo Domingo from 17 to 21 February 1992. The Board held seven meetings.

112. The session was opened by Gule Afruz Mahbub, in her capacity as President of the Board.

113. The Minister of Education of the Dominican Republic and ex officio member of the Board representing the host country, Jacqueline Malagón, addressed the Board. She assured the Board of her Government's continued support of the Institute. She then referred to some of INSTRAW's programmes implemented during 1991, which were a testimony of the valuable work carried out by the Institute. She especially emphasized INSTRAW's work in the areas of statistics for elderly women, the informal sector, development of communication material related to women and women's environment and sustainable development. She stressed her Government's interest in the Institute's further strengthening its collaboration with non-governmental organizations in the host country. She concluded by assuring the Board of her Government's strong commitment to the goals of INSTRAW.

114. The Director of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, Dunja Pastizzi-Ferencic (now Director of the Science, Technology, Energy, Environment and Resources Division of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat), representing Ji Chaozhu, Under-Secretary-General of the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat and representative of the Secretary-General to the INSTRAW Board of Trustees (now Under-Secretary-General of the Department of Economic and Social Development of the United Nations Secretariat), read a statement on his behalf. In that statement, Ji Chaozhu paid particular tribute to the Government and people of the Dominican Republic for their continued commitment and for crucial support provided to the Institute. He emphasized that at this particular juncture in history, the United Nations system as a whole had taken on particular

significance in promoting and securing international cooperation at all levels for the benefit of all Governments and all peoples. It had become increasingly clear that lasting political stability could not be achieved unless and until economic opportunity and social progress had broken through the bondage of poverty. INSTRAW, since its inception, had been standing at the forefront of the international effort to alleviate the growing phenomenon of the feminization of poverty. However, much remained to be done in building upon the broad base of INSTRAW's impressive achievements. He referred to the close and satisfactory collaboration between the Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat and INSTRAW in efforts to ensure the incorporation of women's concerns into the mainstream of United Nations technical cooperation programmes. Finally, referring to the restructuring of the economic and social sectors of the United Nations Secretariat, he requested that INSTRAW follow closely all trends and developments in relation to the consolidation of those sectors and welcomed suggestions and proposals by the INSTRAW host country, management and staff to this effect.

115. Opening statements were also made by the representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Dominican Republic and by the Director of INSTRAW.

B. Attendance

116. The following members of the Board attended the session: Pilar Escario Rodriguez-Spiteri (Spain), Penelope R. Fenwick (New Zealand), Fátima Benslimane Hassar (Morocco), Gule Afruz Mahbub (Bangladesh), Victoria N. Okobi (Nigeria), Virginia Olivo de Celli (Venezuela), Amara Pongsapich (Thailand), Gail Saunders (Bahamas), Renata Siemienska-Zochoska (Poland) and Kristin Tornes (Norway). Gertrude Ibengwe Mongella (United Republic of Tanzania) was unable to attend.

117. The following ex officio members of the Board also attended: the Director of the Natural Resources and Energy Division of the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat, representing Ji Chaozhu, representatives of ECE, ESCAP, ECA, ECLAC and ESCWA, the representative of the Dominican Republic, the host country of the Institute, and the Director of the Institute.

118. A representative of the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs attended the session.

119. Representatives of UNDP and UNIFEM attended the session.

120. A representative of IFAD also attended the session.

121. An observer for the approved INSTRAW focal point of Norway attended the session.

C. Election of officers

122. At its 1st meeting, in accordance with rule 7 of its rules of procedure, the Board elected the following officers by acclamation:

President: Virginia Olivo de Celli (Venezuela)

Vice-President: Pilar Escario Rodriguez-Spiteri (Spain)

Rapporteur: Amara Pongsapich (Thailand)

D. Agenda

123. At its 1st meeting, the Board adopted the following agenda for its twelfth session:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Adoption of the agenda.
3. Election of officers.
4. Implementation of the work programme for 1991: progress report on the Institute.
5. Review of the Institute's training programme, scholarships and internships.
6. Review of the Institute's information, documentation and communication facilities including its publications policy.
7. Cooperation with United Nations organizations, research and training institutes, INSTRAW focal points and correspondents.
8. Review of the work of the Strategic Planning and Finance committees.
9. Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 1992-1993.
10. Other matters related to the functioning of the Institute.
11. Adoption of the report of the session.